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Maine Campus Staff

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The Daily Maine Campus

THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE NEWSPAPER SINCE 1875

Friday, February 27, 1987

vol. 100 no. 35

Foreign policy debate:

United States in Nicaragua

by Christopher Hames
Staff Writer

More than 150 people turned out at the Damn Yankee Thursday for a student debate on the subject of Central America.

The debate, sponsored by the University of Maine International Affairs Club, pitted two panelists for the Conservative Student Action Coalition against counterparts from the Maine Peace Action Committee.

The topic of the discussion was the question of whether the United States has the right to affect the sovereignty of a state through support of an insurgent minority.

Nicaragua was the focus of the event.

Terry Moore of the IAC, serving as moderator of the event, provided a brief background of recent Nicaraguan political history before opening up the debate.

Stephen Gray of MPAC led off the discussion in pointing out the high level of U.S. involvement in Nicaragua, especially with regard to economic concerns.

"The economy of Nicaragua is distorted to serve the interests of the U.S. and Western powers, not necessarily the people of that state," Gray claimed.

His partner, MPAC member Mark Turner, followed, tracing American intervention in Nicaragua from early expeditions through the 1979 over-

throw of the Somoza regime by the Sandanistas.

"What is the reason for our intervention in Nicaragua?" Turner asked.

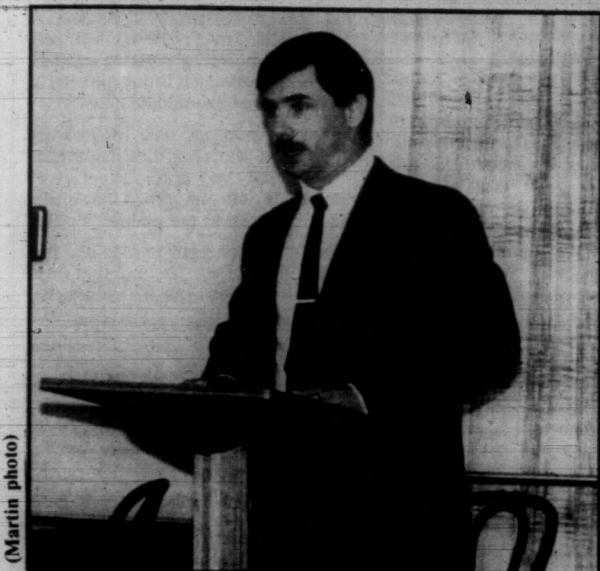
The Sandanistas simply overthrew an oppressive Somoza government, he said.

"The U.S. itself began as a revolutionary nation," Gray said.

Turner pointed out that the allegedly Marxist Sandanistas received 64 percent of the popular vote in the 1984 elections.

"Nicaragua may be a Marxist state but a unique experiment is going on there.

"The Sandanistas are trying to build a sovereign state, and the U.S. does not have the right (see DEBATE page 3)



(Martin photo)

Moderator Terry Moore during Thursday's debate

Student life fee proposal accepted

by Jennifer Girr
Staff Writer

The \$1.7 million proposal for the student life fee was accepted by the *ad hoc* Mandatory Fee Budgetary Committee, after three hours of discussion Thursday night.

The four areas to be included in the student life fee recommendation are the health fee, a physical recreation fee, a performing arts fee and a student union fee.

Stuart Haskell, director of physical education and activities explained the money raised from the athletic fee will not be part of anything that currently brings in revenue.

"If you think these monies are going to the football team you're wrong," Haskell said.

"We're not talking about any activity that generates money, we're talking about the things people won't pay to see."

Haskell said students want more one-credit athletic programs, but with more programs come more maintenance costs.

Christopher Boothby, president of student government said the students will benefit from this athletic fee through the increase in the availability of intramural activities.

"It will also upgrade our sports facilities for all students," he said.

David Rand, director of the Memorial Union and associate dean of student activities and organization, voted in favor of the union fee.

"With the mandatory fee dollars we will endeavor to put together a student programming board, who will in turn try to identify the interest and needs in of the students," Rand said.

Corbett Hall senator John Gallant said the union fee will identify the needs and deal with the entertainment and activity of students.

Joel Katz, director of the Maine Center for the Arts said the idea behind the arts fee is to allow students the opportunity to experience live performances.

"We hope to reach those who haven't already been exposed as well as those students who enjoy performances," Katz said.

Boothby said these fees, especially the arts fee give "economic equality" to the student body for an entire year.

"Once these fees are paid in the fall, every student has the same opportunity as every other student regardless of his or her financial status," he added.

Gallant also said the purpose of the arts fee is to increase programs which are currently supported by \$25,000, which is inadequate.

Through the current proposed distribution of new funds, the art, music (see FEE page 3)

Oozeball competition to raise money for wish

by Michael Di Cicco
Staff Writer

Tasha is a four-year-old girl who enjoys doing all the things that little girls do while growing up.

Tasha may never get that chance.

She has been stricken with a life-threatening disease.

Her life and her parent's lives have become dominated by hospital visits, medical tests, and the complications of her illness.

Through the efforts of a local organization, Tasha will be granted her one wish, to visit Disney World in Florida.

The organization, called Operation Liftoff of Maine, is a wish fulfillment organization for children with life-threatening diseases.

According to Liftoff volunteer Nancy Dysart, the money needed to send Tasha and her family to Disney World will be raised through the oozeball tournament on Maine Day, April 22.

Dysart said, "We're hoping for around 64 teams to sign up for the event."

"The competition is not just for students. We really want a lot of faculty teams to participate."

Oozeball chairperson Eric Redard said that 100 percent of the \$10 registration fee will go towards funding Tasha's trip.

Redard became interested in the organization through his involvement with the student alumni association and describes the alumni office as his second home.

"My primary purpose right now is to get Tasha to Florida and I'll do this no matter what it takes," he said.

After her trip, Tasha will join the ranks of roughly 30 Maine children who have had their one wish fulfilled by the two-year-old organization.

Dysart said the organization has no paid positions. "No one receives any salary. All the money raised goes towards fulfilling the child's wish," she said.

Dysart said that organization tries to provide whatever the child wants.

She said in the past they have given children television sets, VCRs, and even made it possible for one child to spend the day with Maine author Stephen King.

"When a child is stricken with a life-threatening disease the family unit gets physically torn apart.

"They are forced to focus on the illness and not on the family itself," she said.

By granting the child's wish, Dysart said the organization hopes to ease the strain on the family.

"Everything possible is done to get them together as a family unit and let them forget the illness for a short while," she said.

Dysart said that children go through a screening process before the organization selects them.

There's always a waiting list and dealing with it is the hardest part of the job, she said.

"So many of the children on the list don't have the time to wait," she said.

Dysart said that although she spends a considerable

amount of time working for the organization she has no regrets.

"It's the most gratifying work I've ever done," she said.

Operation Liftoff of Maine is an independent chapter of the national organization.

It was started in 1985 by two Carmel women, Sharrlyn Parsons and Cheryl Field.

Parsons said, "I knew of a little girl in Brewer who had bone cancer. At the age of four she had just gone through having her leg amputated."

She said she wanted to get involved to help the child in some way.

After sending away for information from organizations across the country, Parsons found Operation Liftoff.

"I knew that the girl wanted to go to Disney World," she said.

(see LIFT page 3)



Tasha

American middle class is shrinking rapidly

by Monica Wilcox
Staff Writer

According to a study conducted in the *New York Times*, distribution of income in the United States has become more unequal and the middle class has shrunk as more families have slipped into poverty.

"The shrinking middle class" was the topic of discussion yesterday in the North Bangor Lounge at the Memorial Union where more than 60 people came to listen to professor of economics, Melvin Burke.

The lecture was the fourth program of the Socialist/Marxist Series, which is

sponsored by the Marxist/Socialist Studies Interdisciplinary Concentration.

"Our middle class is sinking into the lower class and our lower class is growing (in number) rapidly," Burke said. "The American upper class is growing in wealth, not in numbers."

According to *US News & World Report*, an estimated 638,000 people in the United States in 1983 had a net worth of at least \$1 million. That's one in every 359 Americans.

In 1948, only one in every 11,287 was a millionaire.

Burke said, "Thanks to Reagan, things have changed rapidly over the last few years."

"According to most people, we're

either upper or lower (class); but we're never going down," he said.

Between 1979-1984, Burke said eight million additional jobs were added.

"But of those, 80 percent were lower-paid jobs," Burke said.

According to official U.S. Labor Department data, in December of 1982 there were 12,036,000 Americans out of work. This is an officially recorded rate of 10.8 percent of the labor force.

Burke said a great deal of these unemployed workers are middle class and white collar workers.

Although official figures are on the average, Burke said, "Statistics reveal something that can't be denied; the American middle class is shrinking."

He said there are "many explanations" for this problem, but some include American investments and machinery replacing workers.

The Wall Street Journal last year reported that among married couples, the working woman is lifting millions of families out of the middle class.

If a husband and wife each earned \$24,000 last year, their total income put them among the top 20 percent of all families. If only one earned that much, they would fall in the middle.

"People don't want to hear the bad news," Burke said. "It's not that there is no middle class, but it's definitely shrinking."

BLOOM COUNTY



by Berke Breathed

SHOE



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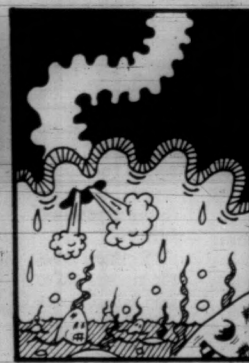
BY GARRY TRUDEAU



SCREWBALLS

"INTERNAL DAMAGE"

Tom Higgins



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Lambda Chi Alpha house closes its doors

by Christopher Hames
Staff Writer

A shortage of brothers has led to the closing of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity house, according to Russ Woolley, director of the Lambda Chi Alpha Housing Corporation.

"We are closed as a fraternity house until the alumni and national chapter decide to recolonize the house," Woolley said.

"They simply didn't have the numbers to keep it going," said former in-house advisor, UMaine hockey coach Shawn Walsh.

Currently, only five brothers remain as residents of the house, said Lambda Chi member Joe Verzosa.

"A house can't function financially with only five members," Verzosa said.

The alumni would have liked to see at least 20 live-in members here, he said.

Woolley said, "Essentially, those staying at the house are just tenants living in a very large apartment."

Verzosa said the alumni are allowing the five to stay on as caretakers of the house.

"They need to keep the house open anyway so that the pipes don't freeze," said Matt Milliken, another Lambda Chi resident.

According to Verzosa, no single factor led to the closing of the fraternity.

"We simply disintegrated, both financially and socially," he said.

Verzosa said that 11 members had moved out of the house in the last two weeks.

Among the reasons for the disintegration of the fraternity was factionalism within the brotherhood, Verzosa said.

"There were a lot of factions in the house, and there was no communication between these factions," he said.

Resident Kevin Risch said, for example, when one former officer moved out two weeks ago, five other members went with him.

"I've been here for two years and there have always been factions," Risch said.

Verzosa added that incidences such as the raid on the fraternity house by UMaine police officers on Dec. 9 also added to tension within the house.

"Much of this might not have happened had it not been for stress that came from outside concerns," Milliken said.

This stress may have led to an incident at the house last weekend, which was rumored to be a "house-trashing party" staged by Lambda Chi members.

"That was just a lot of frustration and beer," Verzosa said.

He said only minor damage was done to the house, namely a broken window and some plaster knocked loose when a bench was thrown against a wall.

As for the future of the house, Verzosa said the brothers currently living in the house will stay on until the end of the academic year.

"There's a good chance it will be used as a boarding house starting next fall," Milliken said.

Woolley said he is looking into that possibility.

"I hope we can strike some kind of temporary deal with Residential Life," Woolley said.

He added however that he would like to see the house recolonized as a fraternity within the next two years.

Walsh said, "Starting from scratch just might be for the best too."

•Lift

(continued from page 1)

"When I called Operation Liftoff, Ernest Bischoff (the organization's founder) said 'You tell that girl that she's going.'"

Two months later Operation Liftoff of Maine was founded.

Parsons said, "People just poured their hearts out to us."

"If it weren't for the people and organizations who donated their money and time, we couldn't exist." She said the majority of the children wish to visit Disney World.

"Every child wants to see Mickey Mouse," she said.

Parsons said it costs the organization roughly \$2,000 for each family's five-day vacation.

"Disney donates free passes to these families and really rolls out the red carpet for them."

"If we can do something to put a smile on a child's face, then maybe, just maybe, that child can come back with a little more strength to keep on fighting," Parsons said.

•Debate

(continued from page 1)

to interfere in sovereign nations," Turner said.

CSAC panelist Loren Fields objected primarily to the presence of a Marxist state with Soviet military aid in "our backyard."

He claimed that Nicaraguan military forces were now more than sufficient to "trample any nation down there."

Fields said we must take care of that situation immediately.

"The Soviets are establishing a

beachhead down there," he said.

Turner responded that he did not like Fields' use of the term "our backyard" to describe Nicaragua.

"That denotes property; Central America is not our backyard," Turner said.

Tim Lyden, the other CSAC panelist, said the U.S. involvement in the region

stems out of "being asked to help native Nicaraguans."

The Sandanistas hold a yoke on the Nicaraguan populace, Lyden said.

He said Marxism allows for the usurpation of power by the strongest politically.

"Once it's in place there's no removing it," he said.

•Fee

(continued from page 1)

and theatre departments would receive about \$71,000.

To inform the committee how the student body is receiving the proposed fee, a student opinion poll will be held next Wednesday. The amount students will be

expected to pay into the student life fee has not yet been finally recommended.

"We will meet next Monday at 7 p.m. to work out dollar amounts for the final recommendations to President Lick," Boothby said.

2002

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Magazine



Susan J. Plourde

Optimism. I like the sound of that word.

To be optimistic in today's society is an accomplishment in itself. Threat of nuclear war, AIDS infection, cancer from anything we eat or drink — all contribute to an uneasy sense for the future.

In the midst of all this gloom and doom, I have discovered a bright light of optimism.

Recently, a couple that I know came into a large amount of money. How much exactly? I don't know but I suspect that the number had seven digits before the decimal point.

Now I consider myself to be a fairly optimistic person but, if in their shoes, I fear that greed and worry for the future would overcome my good-nature.

I would hoard the funds for a rainy day and still continue my inbred habits of clipping food coupons and shopping sales. It is hard to change the habits of a lifetime.

But not Linda and Eric.

They have given new meaning to the word fun, not just for themselves but for their family and friends as well.

I envy them that. No, not just the money but their lust for life. Their ability to share and bring laughter to those around them.

A few years ago, he was unemployed and they were living in one of Bangor's less-than-reputable housing developments.

Now, they are "retired" and have a beautiful home in Veazie.

But what is great about them is that they are still just Linda and Eric. Not pretentious and stuffy. Just fun-loving and happy.

They were happy poor and they are happy rich. And if they spend all their money, they will be happy poor again. With no regrets.

A recent birthday party for Linda, held at the Bangor Civic Center, included food, drinks, music, fireworks and many other unbelievable trimmings to a theme of a high school prom.

Hundreds of people were invited and many chose to re-live their youth in rented tuxedos and borrowed prom gowns.

And a good time was had by all.

Hat's off to you, Linda and Eric! You've proven that the rags to riches American Dream can become a reality, even in Veazie, Maine.

You've shown me how to live and love.

But most of all, you've taught me a lesson in optimism and making the most of life today.

Although we can't ignore the present problems in the world, the constant wringing of hands and the gnashing of teeth will only make you and those around you miserable.

It is not necessarily true that life sucks and then you die.

Life only sucks if you let it.



Joe Foss portrays Tom Wingfield, an angry young man caught in the throes of the Depression, in Tennessee Williams' classic drama *The Glass Menagerie*. (PICS photo)

Glass Menagerie well rehearsed

Review

by Paul Siletti
Volunteer Writer

"I give you truth in the pleasant disguise of illusion," proclaims Tom Wingfield, narrator and lead in Tennessee Williams' semi-autobiographical *Glass Menagerie*.

Wingfield's words, uttered by University of Maine drama student and senior, Joe Foss, contain irrefutable validity in Maine Masque's production of the play, running Feb 25-28.

The part of Wingfield, an aspiring poet forced to work in a shoe warehouse to support his mother and crippled sister expresses — as do all the cast's roles — a vivid and penetrating illusion of reality.

"Yes, yes I know Milton was blind — but that's not what made him a genius," quips Amanda Wingfield, portrayed by Elizabeth Moore. She is telling Tom to write his poetry under a brighter light source.

Boisterously voicing her lines in a Georgian accent, donning age-adding garb and make-up and hobbling about as if stiffened with age, Moore plays Amanda, the overbearing and suf-

focating mother of Tom and Laura Wingfield, to perfection.

Equally authentic is Laura Wingfield portrayed by Laura Sparks.

Speaking in a wavering voice, and continually cowering and quaking in her movements, Tom's younger sister, Laura is every-bit the morbidly shy girl who passes her days listening to old phonograph records and gazing at miniature glass animals that Williams must have wanted her to be.

"It isn't a flood. It's not a tornado. Mother I'm just not as popular as you were at Blue Mountain."

(see PLAY page 5)

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•PLAY

"Mother's just afraid that I'll turn out to be an old maid."

The advice and conversation Laura receives pertaining to the nature of and possible solutions for her social situation supplied by a boisterous Daniel Colbert reveals much about the well depicted James D. O'Connor.

"Say you know what I judge to be the trouble with you? Inferiority complex! You know what that is. That's what they call it when a fellow low rates himself! Oh I understand it because I had it too. Only my case wasn't as aggravated as yours."

O'Connor, the single "gentleman caller" Mrs. Winfield can persuade into wooing her daughter, is instilled by Colbert with all the character and polish of a Dale Carnegie trained encyclopedia salesman.

In addition to veritably portraying their perspective parts, the cast contributed to the play's prevailing success by acting in harmony and union, strengthening the illusion that the relationships actually exist between the players.

This aspect of the performance was no accident. Lead actor Joe Foss said, "We've all acted together before so we trust and know what to expect from each other."

Less enhancing than the acting to the "Menagerie's" outcome was the set.

Though the model of the 1930's flat is blanketed appropriately in a dusty and murky light (the story is suppose to transpire dreamily in Tom's mind) and furnished with contemporary wares, an enormous steel super structure that looks like a cross between a suspension bridge and an external fire escape

(continued from page 4)

traversing the set diminishes the image. Fixed in a play possessing themes of life's tragic realities, the pretentious and grandiose monument stands as an immobile contradiction to the play's meaning.

A play about people and not about props and the set, however, doesn't significantly derogate its tasteful and well rehearsed execution.

The Glass Menagerie is a must-see display of theatrical talent.

Rock of Ages useful for detail-famished fans

CPS — Rock books attempt the impossible. Since rock is an oral tradition, the rock criticisms in those books are akin to — as R.E.M.'s Peter Buck put it — "dancing about architecture."

Yet the music holds such a mystery, writers can't resist it.

And if a recent spate of new books about music is any indication, a large number of readers share the writer's curiosity about rock's eccentricities.

But amid the predictable biographies of James Brown and Bob Dylan, *Rock of Ages: The New Rolling Stone History of Rock & Roll* (Summit Books), emerges as one of the more important — albeit flawed — overviews of rock's story.

More than 40 years in rock's history are detailed in 621 pages. That means that virtually nothing is covered in depth, although the big picture of the genre has never been so well conceived. It's a welcome contrast to the first large-scale history, *The Rolling Stone Illustrated History of Rock & Roll*, which was simply a collection of essays from a variety of contributors.

Until now, rock devotees had only Charlie Gillett's thorough but tedious *The Sound of the City* as a reliable account of rock's development. Gillett argues that rock is the young person's expression of city life, the rhythms reflecting the clipped pace of modern urban manners.

But Gillett is a purist, the kind of inflexible critic capable of claiming that although the Beatles "created a sense of

greater resilience behind the tender messages" of their music, they had "surprisingly little stylistic influence on other innovators." If true, it would shock a lot of listeners and musicians.

Ed Ward, *Rock of Ages'* opening narrator, traces the music back to the vaudeville era of W. C. Handy, one of the first black professional performers. He credits Joe Liggins' 1945 rendition of "The Honeydripper" with being the first rock and roll record. Ward then takes us up to the day the music died, when Buddy Holly, J. P. Richardson (the Big Bopper) and Richie Valens perished in a 1959 plane crash.

Geoffrey Stokes takes over when the sixties come along, and chooses to emphasize the American strains of the style at the expense of many of the British principals. He includes some unnecessary retelling of what Ward has already provided.

Stokes unwittingly characterizes the book's main drawback. These authors are more interested in rock's industry and culture than they are in its musical values. Some embarrassing errors result.

Ken Tucker's concluding section brings the history up to date. He covers the creative vacuum of the seventies up

through the emergence of Bruce Springsteen and Michael Jackson as megastars.

For those interested in the process of the music itself, Bill Flanagan's *Written in My Soul* is meaty compendium of interviews with songwriters. In it Chuck Berry says his only inspiration is the almighty dollar. Elvis Costello admits to some deliberate ambiguities throughout his lyrics. Such things are notable because these creators barely realize their own larger significance in the music's

evolution. As they say: trust the art, not the artist.

But in the long run, it will be *Rock of Ages* that will be the most useful new book for musicians who need a guide to their surroundings. It will be most useful, too, to detail-famished fans who want to know the story behind Al Green's "grits incident" or behind or behind the cast of the 1956 movie, *The Girl Can't Help It*.

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Editorial

Mandatory Apathy

Students David Mitchell and John Gallant explained the proposed student life fee to an audience of seven students last Thursday evening.

Seven students.

They expected a better turnout.

The proposed student life fee is an important issue on this campus.

Under the fee proposal, students will be required to pay an additional \$100 dollars each semester. Gallant and David Mitchell held the forum last Thursday to explain and receive student input on this complicated issue.

Some would call this apparent lack of interest apathetic, but others say students are not showing interest because they see the fee issue as a no-win situation; the administration will do what it likes, regardless of student opinion.

But this is exactly why the Mandatory Fee Budgetary Committee was formed last semester: to allow student input on the mandatory fee proposal.

The committee is composed of 17 students, supposedly representing student opinion, as well as six administrators and four faculty members. Yet typically only eight or 10 of the 17 student members can be found at each committee meeting.

John O'Dea, an off-campus senator, speaking at Wednesday's student senate meeting, called the attendance of only eight student members at Tuesday night's

committee meeting "a disgrace." O'Dea was so right.

Dwight Rideout, dean of Student Services, has said students on the committee will play an active role in helping to shape the final proposal.

And student members currently enjoy nearly a two to one ratio to administrators and faculty members.

They lose this when students don't show up. The only consolation is that some faculty members and administrators are absent at times as well.

But administrators aside, what message are students receiving when their "leaders" apparently fail to show interest in the fee?

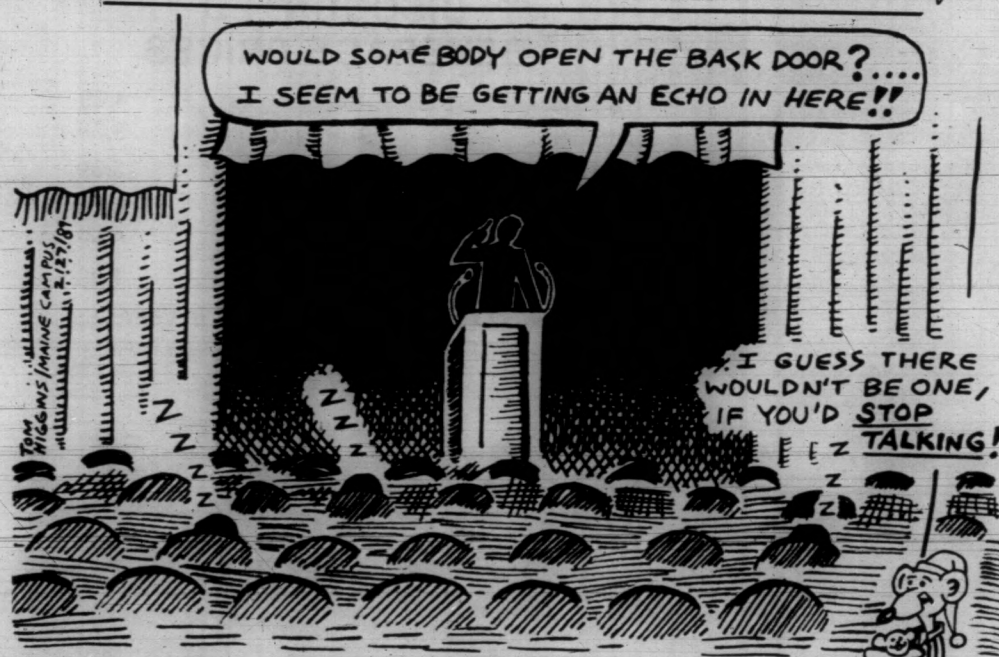
Mark Tuson, Somerset Hall senator, offered this response at Wednesday's GSS meeting, "Students are only as apathetic as their leaders."

He didn't know how right he was.

After all, when only eight out of 17 student members show up to a committee meeting concerning the proposed student life fee, what message are students supposed to receive?

No wonder only seven students attended the forum last Thursday.

Mike Laberge



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Linda McGivern

Movie madness

Recently while pondering my wanderings through literary and cinematic lands I made an interesting discovery.

It seems that ultra-realist movies and books with incredibly depressing plots and themes are the large majority of the books and movies which receive any sort of critical acclaim.

I'm a staunch defender of the happy ending, which has resulted in my being labeled as unrealistic.

Take, for example, the recently released film *The Mission* with Robert De Niro. De Niro, a slave trader, kills his brother after discovering that his girlfriend and his brother had fallen in love.

De Niro spends the rest of the movie trying to atone for his sins and in the process becomes a model Jesuit monk. The movie was a beautiful example of a well-made, incredibly acted, very realistic film; but it was almost too realistic.

The ending depicts how truly unjust life is sometimes; the idiotic bad guy often gets his way, and people (many people in this case) suffer from it. Many good books also depict "real life" in a way that can leave a reader cold. These books depict the past, present and the future. But it's the books that portray a freaked-out future which can really get to a person. George Orwell's *1984*, in particular, demonstrates a specifically onerous future that everybody hopes will not become a reality. What holds the plot up and advances the theme are the various possibilities the future holds. Maybe we all will live in houses where "Big Brother" watches us and forces us to do daily aerobics through TV screens. Maybe not.

Sometimes upon viewing or reading these things, I can't help but ask myself, "Is life really that bad?"

This is especially true of the movie world around Oscar-time.

I, particularly, have always felt that E.T. should have won an academy award. OK, so E.T. was dead and he came back to life. Does that make it a bad movie?

I think that all movies should end with a dead person coming back to life, except for Jason, the boogeyman and other nasty characters who deserve to stay dead.

Imagine how good we would have felt as viewers if in the movie *Out of Africa* Denys had really not died in a plane crash and he and Karen lived happily ever after in marital bliss on their coffee bean plantation. If all these movies had happy endings, sequels would not be necessary, and everyone would be happy.

Linda McGivern is eagerly awaiting the release of the sequel to *Gone With the Wind*.

Response

Strip offends reader

To the editor:

I am writing in regard to recent episodes of the locally written comic strip, "Screwballs," that the *Campus* prints. The episodes that I am concerned with are the ones depicting the Wilde Stein Club members as evil, neo-Nazi monsters.

I am not a member of the Wilde Stein Club, nor am I a homosexual. I must, however, take offense at these recent comic strips which are not comic at all. The kind of thinking represented in these strips is not only irresponsible but dangerous.

The Wilde Stein club does not recruit heterosexual men for sexual fodder, nor do they meet

in a dark closet. They do not (except possibly in the privacy of their own homes) dress in transvestite fashion, and they most definitely do not march around campus with Kaiser helmets on their heads bashing heterosexuals on the shins with spiked maces.

The writer of this strip obviously suffers from an advanced case of homophobia. Not only that, but he seems determined to instigate and foster this attitude in others. This kind of thinking promotes fear, misunderstanding, irrational prejudice and persecution. It is this kind of thinking that caused the death of Charlie Howard, the homosexual Bangor resident who was

thrown from a bridge to his death in the cold Kenduskeag River.

It is this kind of thinking that hails AIDS as God's vengeance on homosexuals, when in fact it is a serious danger to all men and women of either sex orientation.

The social friction caused by fear of homosexuality can only hurt our society, not help it.

A newspaper should promote the spread of information, not disinformation. It should lead to a greater understanding by its readers of the world they live in and the people that make up that world.

It should not promote fear, ignorance, and social chaos.

Michael T. Johnson
Milford

Fees opposed

To the editor:

I'm opposed to any mandatory fees being charged to enrolled students, including lab and computer use fees. Tuition is set by the Trustees. Fees are at the discretion of the campus. Mandatory fees circumvent the trustees' intention and responsibility to levy as equitable a charge as possible for an education here.

It is the responsibility of the campus to build a budget that

will provide all necessary educational services together with desired auxiliary services and activities and then convince the trustees to fund that budget from tuition, state appropriations and endowment, etc.

Individualized and blanket increments of tuition, called mandatory fees, are unnecessary with adequate planning and persuasion.

John Lyman
Mechanical Engineering
Department

Why pay Tom?

To the editor:

Congratulations to the *Daily Maine Campus*. You have a new look. Well, now it's time for a new comic strip. Why are you paying Tom Higgins \$3 per strip for his trash? In the Feb. 23 edition of the *Campus*, "Screwballs" criticized all of us who hate his pathetic cartoon.

And you paid him for this?!!

Has anyone actually sent in a positive comment about "Screwballs?" Stop wasting our Communications Fee on this garbage! Get rid of "Screwballs!!!" (Notice that this letter was written without any unnecessary profanity.)

Engineers Against
"Screwballs"

Hoop support

To the editor:

In response to R. Kevin Dietrich's article on high school hoop in Maine, I'd like to say that he's got it all wrong. The Eastern Maine Basketball Tournament provides many students, family, friends, not to mention athletes, the opportunity to enjoy some exciting and competitive basketball. If you had played basketball or went to high school in Maine, you'd probably understand it a lot better. For those of us who can't afford to fly to such exotic places as Iran and Timbuktu, we like to go to the Bangor Tournaments to watch our high school students show their talent, sportsmanship, and heart during the games.

Yes, Maine athletes do have talent. Otherwise a women's team consisting of such players as Liz Coffin, Laurie Gott and 13 other Maine high school stars wouldn't be one of the top teams in the Seaboard Conference. Also, what about such players as Dean Smith and Matt Rossignol along with the many fine athletes who played in this year's tournament. High school basketball is worthy of the press it gets, and a lot of people probably wish it would get more.

Oh, yeah! Kevin, I'd gladly pay you for your plane ticket to the Iran-Iraq border if you promise never to return.

Rhonda Thombs
Somerset Hall

Seniors are challenged

To the editor:

The Class of 1987 is in its final stretch towards graduating and taking on the "real world." Reflecting for a moment, we can see that our class has lived, observed and seen many events that make our class unique. We have witnessed the installation of two university presidents and a new chancellor.

The renaming of Neville Hall occurred in our Sophomore year and we have been privileged to participate in the first season at the Maine Center for the Arts. Not only that, we have experienced many movements such as Shantytown, anti-nuclear protests and protests against sexual assault and rape. But perhaps the most unique event of all — we will be the first class to graduate from the University of Maine in 16 years.

To those of you in the Class of 1987, think about the first day you arrived at UMaine: Scared maybe? Anxious — wanting to adjust fast? Remember the Freshman '20? And what about learning about the Den? How about those 8:00 classes,

and you managed to stay awake, let alone get there? Now, as a senior, all of these once unfamiliar activities are an integrated part of your life here at UMaine. They have come together to form a special bond and that makes us proud of UMaine and all that it has tried to give to each one of us.

The diplomas we receive on graduation day will reflect the knowledge, culture and experience we have gained at UMaine. The value of our degrees, however, will only be as good as UMaine's continuing reputation of excellence.

The 1987 Senior Challenge is a five-year pledge program sponsored by the Class of 1987 and the Maine Alumni Association. The purpose of the program is to promote and inspire our class to take stock in the development in the University of Maine through the Annual Alumni Fund. Over a five-year period, every senior may pledge a total of \$125 to the University of Maine. You may designate your money to a specific program or department, or make a

non-designated contribution which will fund areas of the campus which have the greatest need. Your first contribution does not need to be made until June, 1988.

Senior Challenge is more than a money commitment: Senior Challenge is an investment in the future of the University of Maine. As alumni there will forever be a bond that connects you to UMaine. That bond is the knowledge, growth, and experience you've received in the past 4-5 years. One way to strengthen this bond is to ensure the high quality and winning spirit of this university by maintaining the value of this investment through Senior Challenge.

The choice is yours. There's no pressure, no sales pitch, just a desire as future alumni to invest in the future for those who will follow us. If you have any questions, or would like information, call the UMaine Alumni Association at 581-1132.

Julie Albert '87
John Ames '87
Joanne Astle '87
Gail Brochu '87
Chris Hennessey '87
Joanne Monsen '87

Washington well recieved

To the editor:

I have been tempted to write a letter to the editor many times since becoming a grad student at UMO (I still prefer the old name, and few outside of Maine realize that it has changed anyway). As a result of some unusual free time, and number of recent letters to the editor, I have finally acted on this temptation.

I considered focusing on the present debate over religion, but realized I would sum up my opinion rather briefly. It is every American's right to practice whatever religion they resonate to, as it is a right to criticize others' religious beliefs. To each his/her own.

Then I thought I might focus on the issue of feminism. However, since big groups are composed of many different individuals, generalizing about feminists is akin to generalizing about any group of humans, which is typically a waste of time and full of prejudicial opinions.

What really seemed worthy of comment was the recent letter about Booker T. Washington. Although I had previously heard of this famous educator, as I assume others had as well, I knew few specifics of his life. This letter informed me. It had no criticisms of prior letters or the difficulty that blacks still face in our and other societies.

It seems that overwhelming majority of letters to the editor are to criticize another's actions or words. For me, college is for learning information and reducing one's biases by exposure to others from different backgrounds. The letter about

Washington shared information without a negative reason for its

existence. It would be an enjoyable change to focus on positives for a while, and keep our criticisms of others to a minimum. My apologies to those who take offense. I'm pretty sure someone will.

Joel Lazar
A New Yorker at heart

Due to typesetting errors in the Wednesday commentary by William O'Malley and Walter McKee regarding Student Government

The text should have read:

We don't need useless committees to argue moot points. We don't need senseless debate in the Senate among self-promoting senators. We do need real representation. If the senators cannot complete their task as senators then they should as our constitution permits, leave it up to the student body to decide what they want in a referendum!

The *Campus* regrets the errors.

Commentary

Chris Koliander

Ever have one of those incredibly horrible days, when it seems like nothing has gone right?

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Things didn't start happening right away, suprisingly. I got through my first class fine. It was after lunch that everything went downhill.

I got to my class after braving the brisk Maine wind. I settled in my seat quite content, because I was 10 minutes early. I could take a couple of minutes to get warm.

I started watching people with red faces, file into the classroom. Some students were discussing their papers. MY PAPER! I completely forgot it!

Hit with a sudden pang of horror of what my professor would say to me, I put my coat on. I ran out of the room and back to my dorm. I should have been in the Fiji Marathon!

I ran past my friends, red face and all, trying to make it back to class in time. I made it four minutes late. I passed in my paper.

After that fiasco, I had a quiz in that class. I was so flustered after everything, I forgot a lot of important facts. Great way to start the semester.

After class, I staggered my way to the library to do a rewrite on a paper I had just gotten back. My professor had office hours at 5 o'clock and I wanted to have a new draft to show him.

I went back to my dorm and had dinner. How I love that food in the cafeteria! I had to settle for a tuna fish sandwich and a cup of tea. The main meal was indescribable, so I passed it on. Nobody knew what it was.

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Sports

Track team travels to New England championships

by Dave Greely
Staff Writer

Eighteen men and 15 women from the University of Maine track team will travel to Bates College this weekend to participate in the New England Track Championships.

The participants qualified by meeting certain standards in their particular events, Coach Jim Ballinger said.

Men participating in the New England's are: Rob Sterling and Tim Dyer in the long jump, John Callahan in the 35 pound weight, Dale Nealy and Brian Beaulieu in the pole vault, K.C.

Latham and Sterling in the 60-yard dash, Mike Norman in the 400, Peter Rooks and John Kachmar in the 60-yard hurdles, Dan Crocker in the triple jump and Jim St.Pierre and Joe Trefethen in the shot put.

Also competing will be the mile relay team of Latham, Norman, Shawn Height and Bob Howard and the distance relay team of Robin Hays, Bob Cuddy, Dan Martin and Brian Warren.

Ballinger expects good performances from Nealy, Callahan, Norman, the mile relay team and Sterling and Dyer in the long jump.

"Rob (Sterling) has been sick however and may not make the trip," Ballinger said.

Women tracksters making the trip to Bates are: Pentathlete Elke Brutsaert, Melissa Brancely in the 400, Beth McGarrigle and Nancy Kachmar in the 20 pound weight, Kathy McCosh and Helen Dawe in the 600, Theresa Lewis and Brenda Mahnken in the 1500, Kim Hamm and Brancely in the high jump,

Tina Whitney in the 3000, Edette Williams in the 55 meter dash and Becky Lucien and Christine Drotter in the triple jump.

The mile relay team of McCosh, Brancely, Hamm and Dawe and the 4 x 800 relay team of Marianne Newell, Mary Mehan, Lewis and Mahnken will also compete. Ballinger expects Dawe, McGarrigle, Hamm, McCosh, Brancely and Lewis to do well.

Watras - a magic touch

by John Holyoke
Sports Writer

There's something about the sight of Victoria Watras on a basketball court that makes even casual observers take a second look.

True, she does present a memorable image: six feet tall, darkly tanned, with a long braided ponytail that flies crazily around as she sprints around the court. But that's not all.

Watras just looks like she was born to play the game. A basketball in the hands of the sophomore guard looks like it's being pulled around on an invisible string.

She goes quickly to the left, and the

ball seems to stay behind for an instant, then is flicked behind her back in time to catch up with her body as she drives past a defender.

Though she seems to be looking to the left, a no-look pass back to the right finds its way into the hands of an open teammate under the basket.

Plays like this are becoming almost commonplace for Watras, and though she makes them look easy, they are the result of long years of practice.

"Ball-handling is the skill that I think I'm most sound at," Watras said. "I've spent many, many hours just dribbling."

Though she may not have been born with the skills, they did manifest

(see WATRAS page 11)

Wanted: Editor and Business Manager for Maine Campus and Prism

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THE UNITED STATES ARMY WAR COLLEGE
CARLISLE, PENNSYLVANIA

CURRENT AFFAIRS PANEL

The Current Affairs Panel consists of selected military students at the Army's senior educational institution who have a deep interest in specific areas of national security. They expect to engage in candid, constructive, educational discussion as opposed to simply championing established policies.

You are invited to this unusual opportunity to engage in thought-provoking, scholarly dialogue on

Tuesday, March 3rd
12:15 - 1:45 p.m.
101 Neville Hall

• Watras

(continued from page 10)

themselves while she was young.

"I used to dribble everywhere I went," she said. "I'd dribble down the street and people would holler (from passing cars), 'Get out of the middle of the road!'"

Watras laughingly remembers her mother's odd way of getting chores done.

"My mom would say, 'Victoria, will you dribble in to town to get the mail?'"

With a straight face Watras continued, "So I did. It was only about a mile."

Watras is from Northeast Harbor, but attended East Carolina University for a year before transferring to UMaine.

"Most high school athletes have the

idea that they have to go out of the state of Maine to play," she said. "Since I've come back I've discovered that we can compete against those Division I programs."

When Watras returned to Maine due to personal differences with the coaching staff at East Carolina, the Black Bears received a tall guard who diversified the UM attack.

Maine had always been recognized as a potent inside-oriented team, but the addition of Watras has presented opposing teams with another dilemma.

If opponents choose to sag on inside players like Liz Coffin and Lauree Gott, Watras and Debbie Duff can hit the open shots from the perimeter.

But if defenders play too close, Watras will penetrate and dish to the open player inside.

Maine coach Peter Gavett said before the start of the season that Watras would be difficult to match up with because of her height and skill level.

That has turned out to be true, as she leads the team in assists and free throw percentage, and has been averaging 8.9 points and 4.9 rebounds per game.

Included in her statistical successes are back-to-back triple-doubles (double figures in three categories in one game), a feat that is not believed to have been accomplished in the history of UM basketball.

Despite her past success, Watras doesn't set individual goals for the future.

"I think that if I look at team goals, the individual things will follow," she said.

The emergence of the UM program as a regional power has led to strong community support, large crowds, and youngsters seeking postgame autographs.

Watras said the fact that players are becoming role models for local youths seem even more worthwhile.

"When I get a letter from a younger player and they say that someday they want to play at Maine and wear number 11, there's nothing like that feeling."

"When I look back, the thing that will make me feel like I gave something back to the game will be knowing that I was an inspiration and a role model for some kids."



Victoria Watras

(Baer photo)

The Boston Chamber Music Society

Ronald Thomas, Artistic Director

Bruce Crippock, Executive Director

Sunday, March 1, 3:00 p.m.
Hutchins Concert Hall

Program

Trio in B Flat, Opus 11 - Beethoven
Duo for Violin and Cello, Opus 7 - Kodaly
Quintet for Piano and Strings in A, Opus 114 - Schubert

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ARTS

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Supported by a grant from the Consortium of Area Higher Educational Institutions: Bangor Theological Seminary, Beal College, College of the Atlantic, Eastern Maine Vocational Technical Institute, Husson College, Maine Maritime Academy, Unity College and the University of Maine. Funded in part by the Maine Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts through the New England Foundation for the Arts.

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Standings

(including contests up to 2-25-87)

HOCKEY EAST

	W	L	T	P
Boston College	24	5	0	48
Lowell	19	8	2	40
MAINE	17	12	1	35
Boston Univ.	13	12	3	29
Northeastern	8	18	3	19
Providence	7	20	3	17
New Hampshire	5	20	3	13

ECAC NORTH ATLANTIC

	Conf		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Northeastern	15	1	22	6
Niagara	13	4	17	8
Canisius	12	5	16	10
Boston Univ.	12	5	16	10
Siena	11	6	15	11
Hartford	8	9	14	13
MAINE	6	11	10	16
New Hampshire	3	13	4	21
Vermont	2	15	4	22
Colgate	2	14	3	22

SEABOARD CONFERENCE

	Conf		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Northeastern	12	2	16	11
Boston Univ.	11	3	18	7
MAINE	11	3	23	3
New Hampshire	9	5	14	11
Vermont	6	8	14	14
Hartford	3	11	7	17
Central Conn.	3	10	10	13
Brooklyn	0	13	1	25

This Weekend's Schedule

This Weekend's Schedule

Friday, Feb. 27

Hockey- Boston Univ. at Maine 7:30

Saturday, Feb. 28

Hockey- Boston Univ. at Maine 7:30

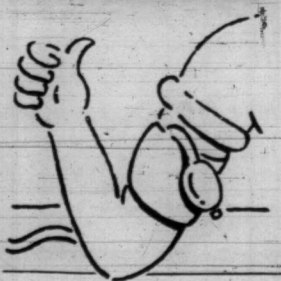
Men's Basketball- Maine at Vermont 2:00

Men's Track- Maine at Boston Univ.-New England Championships 10:00

Women's Track- Maine at Bates-New England Championships 10:00

Wrestling- Open tournament at Maine 11:30

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Get The Lowdown On The Highest-Rated Banking Institution In The Country* (Smith Barney 8/86)

Smith Barney's first quarterly review (August, 1986) put Fleet at the top of their list of 62 nationwide bankholding companies rated on overall performance. If you're interested in a career in banking management with an \$11 billion industry leader, put Fleet on the top of your list of things to do Monday night. From 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., representatives from Fleet will be discussing Fleet's Management Training Programs; get the lowdown on how Number One-Fleet-can take you right to the top of the banking industry.

Monday, March 2nd
7 p.m.-8 p.m.
Union Building, 1st Floor
FFA Room

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